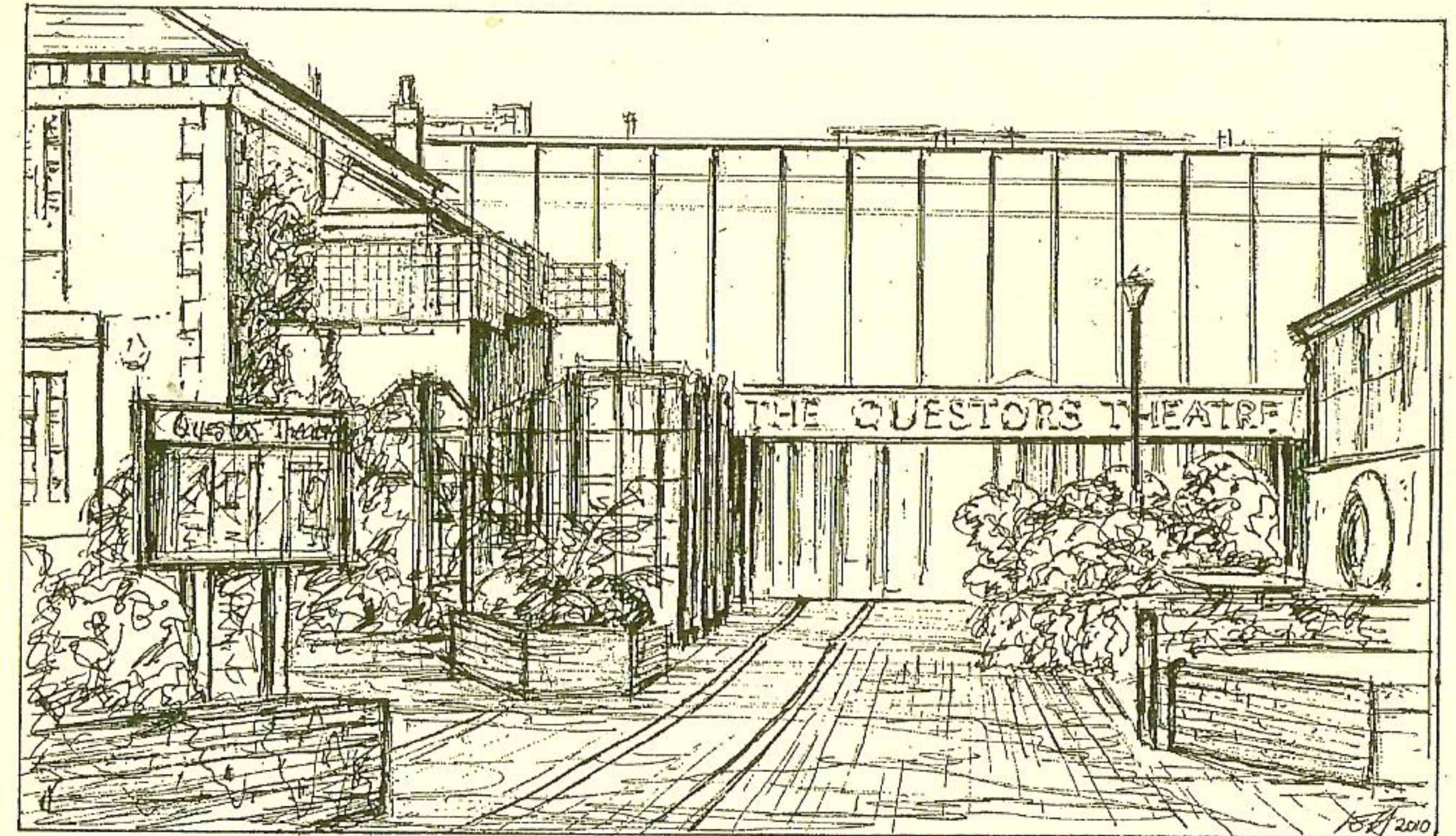




Questors, Ealing's Theatre



WEST 5 STORY

book and lyrics by Richard Harris
music by Denis King

The Playhouse

10 – 17 May 2014

Qafé

Pop in for lunch or an afternoon snack – serving specialist teas and coffees, hot chocolate and soft drinks, with a selection of sandwiches cut to order.

Opening Hours:

Tuesday to Friday 11:30 am – 7:00 pm*

Saturday 9:00 am – 5:00 pm

**last orders for food at 6:30 pm*

For Playhouse productions:

Hot meal menu up to 6:30 pm followed by drinks, ice creams and snacks through the first interval.

The Grapevine Bar

The Grapevine is our friendly club bar open to Members and Friends of The Questors Theatre and their guests, as well as audience members on show nights.

The club is open seven nights a week and Sunday lunchtimes and is managed and staffed entirely by volunteers.

We are the proud holders of a Cask Marque award for the quality of our real ales, we appear in the 2014 edition of The Good Beer Guide and we are **CAMRA West Middlesex Club of the Year**. A choice of at least three real ales is usually available, including Fuller's London Pride. We also provide a range of draught lagers and ciders, as well as wines and spirits – all at very reasonable prices.

Opening Hours:

7:00 pm – 11:00 pm (10:30 pm close on Sundays)

Sunday lunchtime: midday – 2:30 pm

Spring Mini Beer Festival – Thursday 29 to Saturday 31 May 2014

See questors.org.uk/grapevine for more details

Neither the Qafé nor the Grapevine
is able to accept credit or debit cards.



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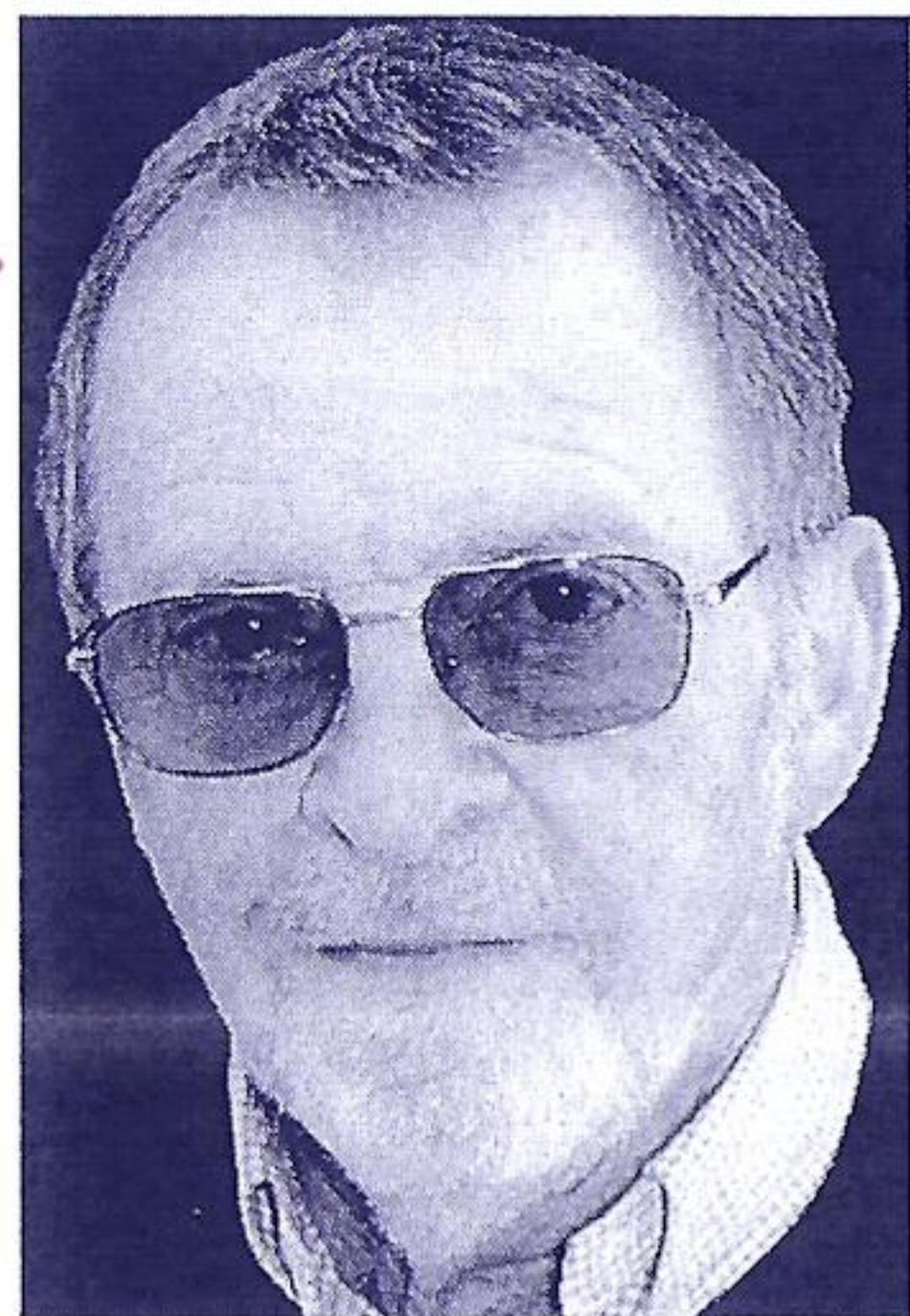
The Playhouse

10 – 17 May 2014

West 5 Story

A couple of years ago I received an email from playwright Richard Harris. He had been told by our own Peter Whelan, another world famous playwright, to contact me about his new musical. I was aware that The Questors had never performed any of Richard's plays, even though he is a prolific writer and an outstanding talent. His shows are performed all over the world: in fact his most famous play, *Stepping Out*, this year alone is to be performed by 26 different companies, including some in Canada and the US. In my time as Artistic Director we penciled in two of his shows, but due to sheer bad luck we had to take them off the list. A few years ago we nearly took *Outside Edge* to Minack. His work has just slipped through the net, which is embarrassing for us as he has lived his life in Ealing.

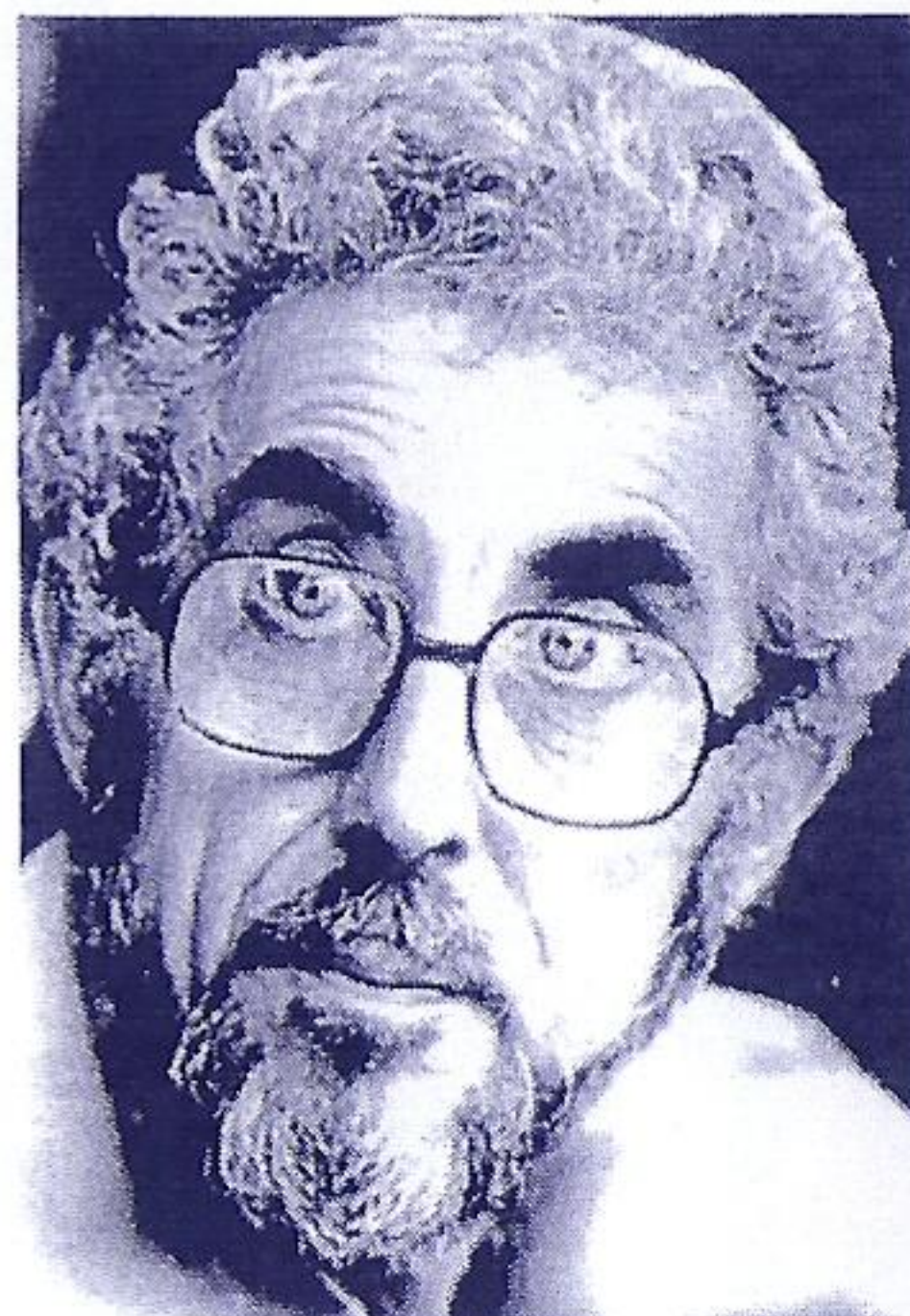
So I met with Richard and he told me about his new show, with music by the brilliant Ivor Novello Award winning composer Denis King. The idea of an older couple in a *Romeo and Juliet* situation, set in Ealing, really intrigued me. I read it, listened to the music and I really loved it. Fortunately, Richard asked if we would like to perform it. I was not going to miss out on the chance to work with the author who has written not only great plays but is also the outstanding television writer of his generation, with *A Touch of Frost*, *Shoestring* and *The Darling Buds of May* to his credit; or to work with Denis King, the composer of the theme tunes of *Black Beauty*, *Lovejoy* and *Worzel Gummidge*, the shows of my childhood. Plus, he also wrote the score to the brilliant *Privates on Parade*.



Denis King

It has turned out to be a great collaboration, beginning with both of them turning up to the first read through, with Denis playing and singing all of the songs. Richard has been at many rehearsals, at times adding lines on the spot or rewriting speeches. Denis has written all of the band parts just for us. He has come in on several occasions and attended band call, inspiring our Musical Director John Hennessy and his band. Their advice and interaction with us has been a great experience. I feel truly honoured. We really hope to do their work justice and that you enjoy their show as much as we have.

The musical takes place in Ealing in modern times and tells the story of widower Ron Montague's search for a new life after the loss of his wife and his impending retirement.



Richard Harris

Mark Fitzgerald, Director

Richard Harris – Book and Lyrics

Richard's theatre work includes *Outside Edge* (Evening Standard Award), *The Business of Murder*, *Stepping Out* (Evening Standard Comedy of the Year, Molière Award) and *The Maintenance Man*. *Visiting Hour* had a National Theatre platform production, *Dead Guilty* starred Jenny Seagrove and Hayley Mills, and his version of Ibsen's *Ghosts* starred Francesca Annis and Anthony Andrews. *The Last Laugh*, starring Roger Lloyd Pack and Martin Freeman, enjoyed a successful national tour, as did *Going Straight*, with Pauline Collins and John Alderton. *Surviving Spike*, based on a book by Norma Farnes, was produced at the Edinburgh Festival. He has written two other musicals – *Stepping Out*, with Denis King, and *Large as Life*, with Keith Strachan. His latest play *Liza Liza* is scheduled for a London transfer next year.

He has written plays for television, contributed to television series (*The Darling Buds of May*, *The Avengers*, *The Sweeney*, *Sherlock Holmes*), co-created *Shoestring* and *Man In A Suitcase*, and wrote *The Last Detective* series. *Searching for Señor Duende* won the New York Television Festival Gold Award. He wrote the pilot and first three series of *A Touch of Frost* and a series based on his play *Outside Edge*, for which he won three prestigious comedy awards. He has written several screenplays, including the adaptation of his stage play *Stepping Out* which starred Liza Minnelli.

He claims to be a founder member of The Questors on the grounds that, as a schoolboy some sixty odd years ago, he was persuaded to buy a brick as a contribution towards the building of the new theatre. It cost half a crown and he carved his initials into it, just to make sure he could trace its usage. If you see an elderly gentleman peering very close at the brickwork, you'll know what he's up to.

Denis King – Music (www.deniskingmusic.com)

Denis was born in Hornchurch, Essex, and began his musical career at the age of six as a banjolele-playing singer at childrens' matinees. By the age of thirteen, with his two older brothers, Mike and Tony, he was a member of one of the most successful pop groups of the Fifties and Sixties, The King Brothers – Britain's first Boy Band.

With the disbanding of the group in 1970, Denis studied orchestration at the Guildhall School of Music in London and got his first break in television writing the theme for *Black Beauty*, which won the Ivor Novello Award. He has created themes and incidental music for over two hundred television series including *Lovejoy*, *Dick Turpin*, *We'll Meet Again*, *Two's Company* and *Hannay*.

As a performer he has appeared with Dame Edna Everage, Benny Green and Maureen Lipman in her stage show *Re: Joyce*, as well as with the late and sadly-missed Dick Vosburgh in their comic revues *Beauty and The Beards* and *Sing Something Silly*.

His debut as a theatrical composer was with the 1977 Royal Shakespeare Company's original production of *Privates on Parade* (book and lyrics by Peter Nichols) which won the Ivor Novello Award for Best Musical. Other theatre productions include *A Saint She Ain't* and *The Un-American Songbook* (with Dick Vosburgh); *Stepping Out – The Musical* (with Richard Harris and Mary Stewart-David); *Bashville* and *Valentine's Day* (with Benny Green); *Worzel Gummidge* and *Lost Empires* (with Keith Waterhouse and Willis Hall); *Wind In The Willows* and *Treasure Island* (with Willis Hall); *Baby On Board* (with Mary Stewart-David); and *That Old Feeling* with Richard Harris. He has written extensively with Alan Ayckbourn and together they created the musicals *Whenever*, *Orvin – Champion of Champions* and *Awaking Beauty*.

Denis lives in Suffolk and swims in the North Sea every day of the year.

WEST 5 STORY

book and lyrics by Richard Harris, music by Denis King

Licensed by arrangement with The Agency, 24 Pottery Lane, Holland Park, London W11 4LZ – info@theagency.co.uk

World Premiere performance of this production at The Questors Theatre: 10 May 2014

CAST

in order of speaking

George	Julian Casey
Bette	Lauren Elizabeth Mills
John	Declan McAndrew
Ron	Paul Francis
Pat	Victoria Sandford
Michael	Iain Reid
Sylvia	Gillian Jacyna
Bernie	Lucy Aley-Parker
Hoodie	Freddy Gaffney / Artur Mrozek

Ensemble: **Elaine Cole, Annie Hackett, Jessica Lantos, Pam Major, Artur Mrozek, Pam Redrup, Huw Richards, Zyg Staniaszek, Cathy Swift, Peter Thorneloe, Michelle Weaver, Paul Wilson, Ben Zeferework**

Musicians: **John Hennessy** (bass/MD), **Carole Smith** (piano/keyboard), **Simon Briggs** (reeds), **Berni Messenger** (guitar), **David Neville** (drums/percussion),

The performance lasts approximately 2 hours and 15 minutes including a 15-minute interval.

PRODUCTION

Director	Mark Fitzgerald
Musical Director	John Hennessy
Choreographer	Zyg Staniaszek
Set Designer	Peter Collins
Costume Designer	Jennie Yates
Lighting Designer	Tim Hayward
Sound Designer	Christopher Smith
Assistant Director / Choreographer	Stephanie Pemberton
Stage Manager	Alison Lemon
Assistant Stage Managers	Ian Black, Freddy Gaffney, Artur Mrozek, Mel Pereira, Huw Richards
Properties	Ian Black, Alison Lemon, Huw Richards
Prompter	Stephanie Pemberton
Rehearsal Pianist	Graham Reid
Wardrobe Assistant	Jenny Richardson
Lighting Operator	John Green
Lighting Riggers	Ieuan Jones, Nigel Lewis, Terry Mummery
Sound Operator	Robert Piller
Construction and Painting	Ian Black, Peter Collins, Paul Wilson
Get-In Team	Henry Broom, Toby Burbidge, Shaan Latif-Shaikh
Photographer	Peter Gould
Thanks to	Harriet Parsonage, Sylvia Wall, St. Patrick's Nursery (Waterloo)

The Questors Theatre would like to offer its special thanks to **Richard Harris** and **Denis King** for the generous gift of their time and support.

Please turn off all mobile phones and similar electronic devices.
The use of cameras, video cameras and recording equipment is strictly prohibited.
Thank you.

Biographies

Lucy Aley-Parker – Bernie

Lucy graduated from Webber Douglas many years ago. An acting member since 2007, she's played many enjoyable roles since her Questors debut as Smeraldina in *A Servant to Two Masters*, which also toured to Venice. Most recently she was co-director on Ayckbourn's challenging *House & Garden*. She's very thrilled to be appearing in her second musical for The Questors – having previously been a singing teapot.

Julian Casey – George

Julian made his Questors debut in 2006 as Roger in *Mouth to Mouth*. Since then he has appeared in every Questors season in roles such as Dracula, Iago, Vershinin and Petruchio. He last appeared in a rehearsed reading of the new play *Sheltered* in December 2013 in the Studio and feels honoured to be working on the premiere of *West 5 Story*.

Paul Francis – Ron

Paul has been a Questors member for about 15 years and has played a variety of parts including Sweeney Todd in *Sweeney Todd*, Badger in *The Wind in the Willows* and Widow Twankey in *Aladdin and his Wonderful Lamp*.

Gillian Jacyna – Sylvia

Gillian was a member of Student Group 53 in the distant past. Since then she has appeared in a mix of productions including un-named servant in *The House of Bernarda Alba*, Lady Cravenshire in *Calendar Girls*, Pam in *French Paste* and not forgetting Scottish Granny in *Into the Woods*. She is excited to be involved in this new production.

Declan McAndrew – John

Declan first performed at The Questors with the Artists Theatre School in 2009. He subsequently appeared in teacher training films and local new writing productions. As an acting member has appeared in *It's a Wonderful Life!*, the 24-Hour Plays and most recently in *Have I None*.

Lauren Elizabeth Mills – Bette

Lauren has appeared in various plays and musicals around the world including *Uncommon Women and Others* in Seattle, *Arcadia* in Montreal and *Return to the Forbidden Planet* in Amsterdam. This is her debut performance at The Questors and she is delighted to be involved in *West 5 Story*. Lauren would like to thank her 'cheerleaders' for all of their support.

Enjoyed the Show?

Let us know what you think, and connect with The Questors Theatre for updates on all upcoming productions and lots more.

Follow us [@questorstheatre](https://twitter.com/questorstheatre)  and find us on [Facebook](#)  Like

Iain Reid – Michael

Iain was in Student Group 29 (1974-76). He has acted, sung and even danced in many Questors productions since, including: *The Fall of The House of Usher* and others with Nicolas Johnne Wilson; *The Boy Friend* and *Cabaret* with Kit Emmett; *Animal Farm*; *Dimetos*; *Deathwatch*; *Twelfth Night*; *The Marat/Sade*; *Men Should Weep*; various Christmas shows; and *Soapsud Island* (the first PlayBack project).

Victoria Sandford – Pat

Victoria was in Student Group 51 (1996-98) and has since appeared in numerous productions including *Brassed Off* (Sandra), *Coarse Shakespeare – The Final Folio* (Cleopatra), *The Talented Mr Ripley* (Marge/Sophia) and *Beauty and the Beast* (Babette). She was director for *The Flint Street Nativity*, lighting designer for *The Winterling* and set designer for *The Taming of the Shrew*.

Peter Collins – Set Designer

Peter has been an active member of The Questors for over 20 years. He began designing sets in 2003; notable designs have included *Henry V*, *Richard III*, *The Trojan Women* and *Further than the Furthest Thing*. He designed *Beauty and the Beast* for Christmas 2010, *The Flint Street Nativity* in 2011, *It's a Wonderful Life!* in 2012 and *Antigone* in 2013. He is also active in production photography.

Mark Fitzgerald – Director

Mark trained in Student Group 44 and at Drama Studio London and was a former Artistic Director of The Questors. As a director he has over sixty credits to his name, including (for The Questors) *Dracula – Fangs of Destiny*, *It's a Wonderful Life!*, *The Complete Works of William Shakespeare (abridged)* (and at the Minack Theatre), *The Libertine*, *The Accrington Pals*, *A Christmas Carol*, *Henry VI*, *Far from the Madding Crowd*, *A Midsummer Night's Dream*, *The Caucasian Chalk Circle*, *Richard III*, *Henry V*, *This Happy Breed*, *Little Shop of Horrors*, *An Ideal Husband*, *The Visit* and *Saturday Sunday Monday*. Mark has also designed many sets for The Questors. Mark was the founding Artistic Director of The Drayton Court Theatre. He also works as an acting coach for television and has over thirty acting credits for film, television and advertisements.

Tim Hayward – Lighting Designer

Tim's recent shows at The Questors include *Absurd Person Singular*, a period production of W S Gilbert's *Engaged*, the Questors Youth Theatre show *Around the World in 80 Days* and *Be My Baby*. Future lighting includes a dramatised history of Boudicca in the amphitheatre at St Albans, a town where she brutally avenged her daughters.

Meet the Company – Wednesday 14 May

Come and meet the director, cast and crew for an informal discussion in the Upper Foyer as soon as possible after the Wednesday performance.

John Hennessy – Musical Director

John initially trained as a tuba player and played with the Ealing Youth Orchestra before turning to bass guitar. He has worked as a session musician and toured with numerous bands, one of which opened the Reading Festival in 1981 and recorded three albums. Latterly, he has worked with numerous musical theatre companies both locally and in the West End. He is the Musical Director of Triffid Productions, which raises money for local charities, and was MD for the last three HEOS productions performed at The Questors. *West 5 Story* is his fourth outing for The Questors, having previously waved the baton for *Little Shop of Horrors*, *A Funny Thing Happened on the Way to the Forum* and *Sweeney Todd*.

Stephanie Pemberton – Assistant Director

Stephanie has been acting for over thirty years, with credits including *Uncle Vanya*, *The Deep Blue Sea*, *Dancing at Lughnasa* and *Stepping Out*. She has also had roles in musicals: *Brigadoon*, *42nd Street* and *Fiddler on the Roof*. Directing credits include *Sweeney Todd*, *Guys and Dolls*, *Cabaret*, *Carousel* and *Calendar Girls*. Stephanie has also choreographed, designed sets and made or sourced many props. At The Questors, Stephanie played Lindy Love in *House & Garden* but *West 5 Story* is her first foray into directing here.

Christopher Smith – Sound Designer

Christopher is currently training as a sound recordist for television with the aim of becoming a sound designer/mixer. Theatre is his real passion, increased by the enthusiasm of the people he has met whilst working here. He has been at The Questors for over a year and this is the third show for which he has designed the sound, following *The Hound of the Baskervilles* and *The Balcony*.

Jennie Yates – Costume Designer

Since joining The Questors in 2000, Jennie has worked on numerous productions, costuming from stock, making and designing. Her Questors productions are too numerous to mention, but recent costume design credits include *Antigone*, *Around the World in 80 Days*, *It's a Wonderful Life!*, *Calendar Girls* and *Dracula – Fangs of Destiny*.

Next Questors Productions

NO FAIRY TALE

by Brian Abbott

6 – 14 June 2014

The Studio

A remarkable play retelling a remarkable story that is both a celebration of the ancient art of storytelling and a fierce polemic against censorship.

BLUE STOCKINGS

by Jessica Swale

12 – 19 July 2014

The Playhouse

The Questors Student Group presents a moving, comical and eye-opening story of four young women fighting for education and self-determination in 1896 Girton College, Cambridge.

Join Us

If you enjoy theatre, why not join us and benefit from membership:

- ✓ Half price personal tickets for Questors productions*
- ✓ Discounted Guest tickets when you bring friends to Questors productions*
- ✓ Children's FREE tickets†
- ✓ Opportunities to be actively involved in our productions
- ✓ Allowed to audition to join our company of actors
- ✓ Exclusive or discounted training courses
- ✓ Access to *iQ* – the members-only website members.questors.org.uk
- ✓ A full-colour members' magazine three times a year
- ✓ Access to exclusive news on *iQ* and email newsletter
- ✓ Monthly programme card
- ✓ Membership of The Grapevine Club
- ✓ Voting rights in the company

*Reduced prices exclude certain events. †Under 18 only, maximum four per event. Must be collected at the performance and accompanied by an adult member.

Introductory offer – as a welcome for first-time members, get your first 12 months' membership for the price of six.

Getting the most from your membership

We have a wide range of opportunities for you to become actively involved front-of-house or backstage. Volunteer help is always needed for selling programmes or stewarding, and training is provided if you'd like to work in Box Office with our computerised system. To meet members in a social setting, volunteer to help behind the Grapevine bar. Backstage staff including stage managers, prop makers, set builders, sound and light designers and operators, painters, wardrobe and costume and set designers are always welcomed; whatever your skills, we'll find a place for you. We also have courses for those wishing to direct.

The Questors has a high standard of acting and, to maintain this, everyone wanting to act must first take an audition. These are held every month – call the Theatre Office for details of forthcoming auditions.

The Questors Youth Theatre – QYT

Our Youth Theatre, QYT, runs weekly drama classes for all ages from 6 to 18. Younger groups meet on Saturday mornings and older ages at weekday teatime. There's often a waiting list for membership, so put your name down now! Details are online at questors.org.uk/qyt.

Cover Image: Elaine Hagan

The Questors Theatre

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Programme: Nigel Bamford

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